FIRST COMICS DELUXE SERIES

FIRST ISSUE!

MAY NO.1 $1.75 $2.45 CANADA

EVANGELINE™

ALL NEW ADVENTURES!

VILLAGRAN

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

It is the 23rd century, and many things have changed... and many things remain the same. Humans have colonized the stars... and they still persecute each other for religious beliefs. Enter **Evangeline**: executioner and saviour. She has a special mission... and friends in *very* high places.

She is an expert at hand-to-hand combat and is proficient with a wide variety of weapons; but she has a special affinity for the old-fashioned bow and arrow.

Her special mission: to protect and avenge victims of religious persecution throughout the galaxy.

And she's already had a lot of experience. She avenged the senseless slaughter of an orphanage full of innocent children and nuns on Mars and dispatched a gang of interstellar highjackers who mistook her for a defenseless countess (Comico *Evangeline* #1 and #2).

Her friends: the mysterious **Cardinal Szn**, the high-ranking Vatican official who recruited Evangeline; and **Jonny Six**, a professional thief.

Who is Evangeline? She's a nun — a very *dangerous* nun.

LAST ISSUE: Yes, even though this is #1, there was a "last issue." Comico published two issues of *Evangeline*, and they were then reprinted by Lodestone in the *Evangeline Special*. This first First issue takes up the tale as Evangeline and Jonny Six find themselves leaving the wreck of an interstellar cargo ship and heading toward an unknown planet. Unfortunately, the surviving hijackers that killed the ship's crew are headed toward the same destination...

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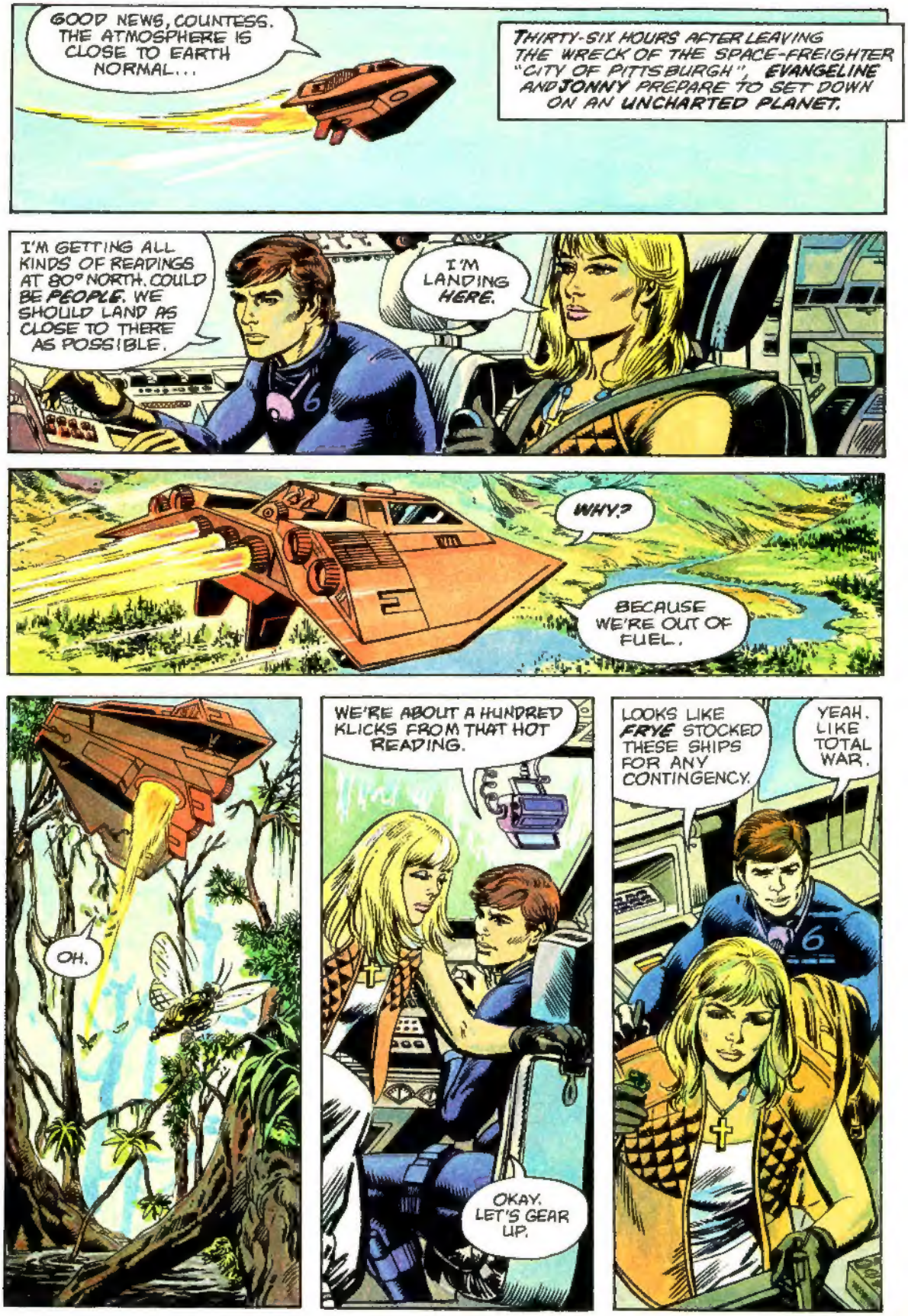
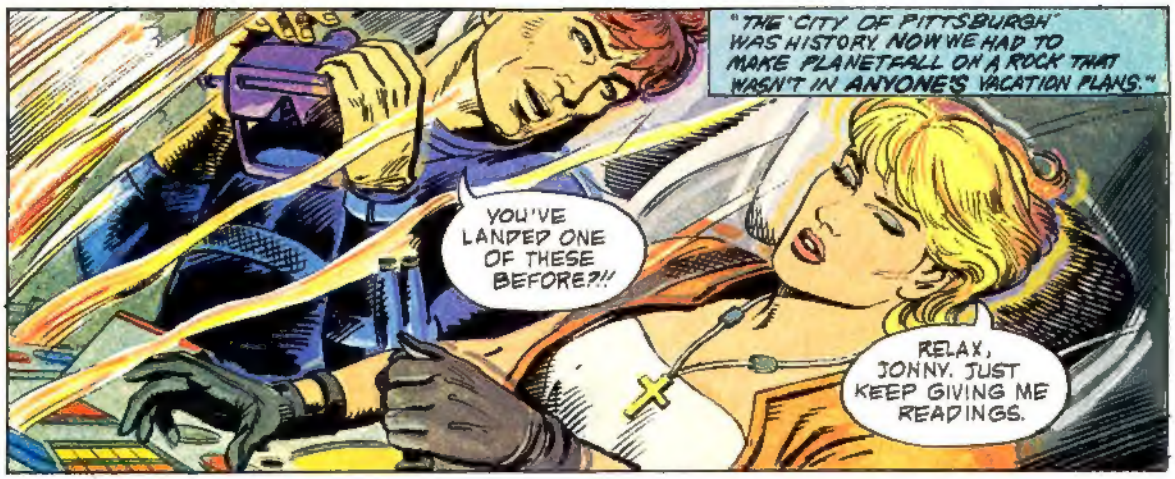
A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

"THE JOB WAS GOING TO BE A PIECE OF CAKE. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD GO WRONG WHEN THE DAMN FREIGHTER WAS LATE.
CARGO
CARGO
"GETTING ABOARD THE 'CITY OF PITTSBURGH' WAS EASY.
"EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING HE'S GOOD AT.
"I'M GOOD AT CRACKING SHIPS.
"I FIGURED A TUB THIS SIZE WOULD BE CARRYING SOMETHING OF VALUE.
R1-1
ARK-1
"BOY, WAS I WRONG.
"I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT I FOUND.
"SO I SNOOPED AROUND A LITTLE. UNTIL I FOUND HER.
BLAM BLAM
"THIS CHICK WAS A REAL HEAVYWEIGHT. SHE TOOK CARE OF A COUPLE OF GOONS LIKE SHE DID IT EVERY DAY.
"I JUST HAD TO MEET HER.

"SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS A COUNTESS TRAVELING TO THE OUTER SYSTEMS.
"THIS GUY FRYE HAD TAKEN OVER THE 'PITTSBURGH' AND KILLED MOST OF THE CREW.
"NEITHER ONE OF US KNEW WHY UNTIL WE DOCKED WITH A DERELICT U.S.E.D. WARSHIP."
"SEEMS FRYE HAD BEEN THE CAPTAIN OF THE WARSHIP. HE SCUTTLED THE SHEPARD TEN YEARS AGO AND LEFT THE CREW FROZEN.
"NOW HE WAS BACK FOR THE CARGO OF GEMS HE HAD LEFT IN THE HOLD.
"WE MADE IT OVER TO THE DERELICT IN TIME TO SEE FRYE AND HIS BUDDIES JUMPED BY A BUNCH OF CRAZIES THAT WERE WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE DERELICT'S ABANDONED CREW
"FRYE'S OLD CREW HAD BUILT UP A LOT OF HATRED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.
"WE FOUGHT OUR WAY TO THE LIFESHIPS. BETWEEN THE CRAZIES AND FRYE'S GANG, IT WASN'T A PICNIC.
EMERGENCY
LIFE-SH

"FRYE AND A COUPLE OF HIS SCUMBAG BUDDIES ESCAPED IN THE NUMBER ONE LIFESHIP.
"WE MADE IT TO THE NUMBER TWO JUST AS THE CRAZIES BLEW THE LIFESHIPS ACCESS TUBE, TRYING TO GET AT US. THEY WERE ALL SUCKED OUT INTO SPACE.
"COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED TO A NICER BUNCH OF GUYS."
ROME. THE VATICAN.
THIS LOOKS IMPORTANT.
IT'S A SUBSTANCE TRANSMISSION ON THE CARGO SHIP "CITY OF PITTSBURGH".
THE FREIGHTER DISAPPEARED IN SPACE. THE U.S.E.D.* SUSPECTS THAT IT MADE AN UNAUTHORIZED INNER SYSTEM JUMP. THE JUMP'S DESTINATION IS UNKNOWN.
WE'RE TO NOTIFY THE CARDINAL IF WE RECEIVE ANY REPORTS ON THAT SHIP.
NO NEED.
* UNITED STATES EARTH DEFENSE
CARDINAL SZN.!
YOU HAVE WORD OF THE "CITY OF PITTSBURGH"?


GOOD NEWS, COUNTESS. THE ATMOSPHERE IS CLOSE TO EARTH NORMAL...
THIRTY-SIX HOURS AFTER LEAVING THE WRECK OF THE SPACE-FREIGHTER "CITY OF PITTSBURGH", EVANGELINE AND JONNY PREPARE TO SET DOWN ON AN UNCHARTED PLANET.
I'M GETTING ALL KINDS OF READINGS AT 80° NORTH. COULD BE PEOPLE. WE SHOULD LAND AS CLOSE TO THERE AS POSSIBLE.
I'M LANDING HERE.
WHY?
BECAUSE WE'RE OUT OF FUEL.
OH.
WE'RE ABOUT A HUNDRED KLICKS FROM THAT HOT READING.
OKAY. LET'S GEAR UP.
LOOKS LIKE FRYE STOCKED THESE SHIPS FOR ANY CONTINGENCY.
YEAH. LIKE TOTAL WAR.


"THE 'CITY OF PITTSBURGH' WAS HISTORY. NOW WE HAD TO MAKE PLANETFALL ON A ROCK THAT WASN'T IN ANYONE'S VACATION PLANS."
YOU'VE LANDED ONE OF THESE BEFORE?!!
RELAX, JONNY. JUST KEEP GIVING ME READINGS.

EVANGELINE

Created by Dixon & Hunt

SURE, SURE.

STORY
CHARLES DIXON
PENCILS
JUDITH HUNT
INKS
RICARDO VILLAGRÁN
LETTERS
ED KING
COLORS
JUDITH HUNT
TERRY BIEBER
EDITS
RICK OLIVER

Dinosaur Farm

NICE PLACE.
I THINK I'LL BUILD A HOUSE RIGHT HERE SO I CAN SMELL THE ROTTING VEGETATION IN THE MORNING.
HEY COUNTESS! WHAT'S THE HOLD UP?
I'M MAKING SOMETHING. IT'S ALMOST FINISHED.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
A BOW. I MADE IT FROM SPARE MATERIAL ON THE BOAT. IT'S CRUDE, BUT IT SHOULD DO.
WHAT DO WE NEED THAT FOR? WE'VE GOT GUNS.
GUNS RUN OUT OF AMMUNITION...
... AND WE CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE.
IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS, WE'LL REACH THAT SETTLEMENT AND WE CAN RADIO FOR RESCUE.
WE'LL SEE.

Y'KNOW-- IF THAT GUY FRYE MADE IT DOWN HERE, HE MUST HAVE CAUGHT THAT SAME READING TOO.
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
SO THAT'S THE REASON FOR ALL THE ARMAMENT?
PARTIALLY.
PARTIALLY?
YES. I SAW ANIMALS WHEN WE WERE LANDING.
ANIMALS?
WHAT KIND OF ANIMALS?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT THEY WERE VISIBLE FROM A THOUSAND FEET UP.
BIG ANIMALS.
JONNY... BE QUIET.
HUH?
HOLEEEE...
THERE ARE YOUR ANIMALS.

MONSTERS!

NOT MONSTERS, JONNY-- *DINOSAURS.*

DINOSAURS? WHAT PLANET ARE *THEY* FROM?

EARTH, OF COURSE.

IF THAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF EARTH'S WILDLIFE, I'M GLAD I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE.

THERE ARE NO DINOSAURS ON EARTH NOW. THEY'VE BEEN *DEAD* FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.

SO WHERE DID *THESE* COME FROM?

I DON'T KNOW.

AN HOUR LATER...
WHAT DO THOSE THINGS EAT?
PLANTS, MOSTLY.
THAT'S GOOD. WAIT A MINUTE -- WHAT D'YOU MEAN MOSTLY?
SOME EAT MEAT -- SO THE SOONER WE MOVE, THE BETTER.
SURE... UH... COUNTESS, YOU GOING WITH ANYBODY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
NO.
GOOD
I'M CELIBATE.
THAT MEANS YOU DON'T ..
NEVER.
NEVER?
WE ARE GOING TO BE HERE A LONG TIME.
HEY, COUNTESS, YOU SMELL THAT?
WHATEVER IT IS... IT'S JUST AHEAD.

GODDAMN!
JONNY!
DON'T MOVE. MAYBE THEY WON'T SEE US.
TOO LATE, COUNTESS!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BOOM!
BLAM! BLAM!
BOOM!
CAN'T RUN... THEY'RE TOO FAST.
STAND AND FIGHT THEN!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BA-BOOM!
DAMN!
CLIK! SNIK!
AAGH!
C-CRUNCH!
THUP!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD WITH THAT THING, COUNTESS.
I'VE HAD SOME PRACTICE.

FIRST NOTES

This column is incredibly late this month; so theoretically it should be chock full of late-breaking, up-to-date news flashes. Theoretically. Unfortunately, I have absolutely no idea what's going on, so if you were hoping to get some useful information -- or just idle gossip -- you might as well skip down to the "First In January" section or go pick up a copy of the *Weekly World News*. You and the two guys who keep writing me letters threatening to blow off my kneecaps if I don't stop trying to be funny.

There is a reason why this column is both tardy and inordinately confusing. It is not an EXCUSE. It is a REASON. I don't know what the difference is, but numerous highly talented individuals have assured me on countless occasions that there is, indeed, a difference. What is the reason? Well it is *not* any of the following:

1) The dog ate my word processor.

2) I put it in the mail yesterday. I can't imagine what happened to it. Chicago, *Illinois*? Oh no! I sent it to Chicago, Montana!

3) Nobody told me what day it was, so I didn't even know it was late.

Excuse me. Just a little lame editor humor. Yes, well now that we've all had a good chuckle, let's get down to business. The REASON this column is so unbelieveably late that they had to rip the comics apart after they had been printed, bound, and packed just to insert this one lousy page that has nothing to do with the story you paid good money for? Here it is: I've been kind of... busy. That's it. I'm sorry. It's all I could come up with on short notice.

Let me explain. Every time I sit down to write this column, something comes up. Or more specifically, someone gets up. And she needs a lot of attention. Mostly she just wants to dance. Right now we're dancing to Dire Straits. Before that it was Dave Edmunds and Moon Martin. Yesterday it was Talking Heads and Little Feat.

I guess I'm just a sucker for a pretty face. Someday I'll end up on the cover of some sleazy tabloid, a victim of my own pathetic vices. But I can't help myself. She has such beautiful eyes. And ears. And fingers. And toes. And I can only write this thing in bits and snatches in between songs while she dozes off. But before you know it, she's up again and raring to go.

Maybe she'll grow out of it. I don't know. It's kind of hard to tell right now. I've only been hanging around with her for a couple weeks -- because before that she wasn't around at all. Because she's only two weeks old. She's my daughter, Kendall. She was brought into this world by my wife, Jade, who exerted more superhuman strength than you'll ever see in a comic book. I'm in awe of her courage and beauty. And now I'm in love with *two* women.

For what it's worth, this one's for you, Kendall and Jade.

(Now try to come up with an illustration to go with *that*, Alex "Art Director" Wald!)

American Flagg! #40: Reuben, Raul, and Luther leave Chicago behind as they head out in search of America. But they soon discover the Plex is with them wherever they go. By **J. M. DeMatteis, Mark Badger** and **Randy Emberlin.** And the *last* Bob Violence story -- really! By **Steven Grant** and **Norm Breyfogle.**

Badger #23: Guest artist **Chuck Beckum** joins **Mike Baron** as IBOB sends a hideous demon from another dimension to slice and dice the Badger. But help sometimes comes from the strangest places... And Clonezone by Baron and **Mark A. Nelson.** Deluxe series.

The Chronicles of Corum #3: Corum is given a longed for and deadly gift – the Eye of Rhynn and the Hand of Kwll. But all gifts have a hidden price. By **Mike Baron, Mike Mignola** and **Kelley Jones.** Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Dreadstar #30: The culmination of more than thirty issues -- the final showdown between Vanth Dreadstar and the Lord Papal! Who will win, who will die and who will be changed forever. By **Jim Starlin.** Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Dynamo Joe #7: Sigma Base has been captured and there's only one option left -- blow it up! But Daro, Pomru, and Dynamo Joe have another idea... By **Phil Foglio, Doug Rice** and **Brian Thomas.** And Cargonauts by Foglio and **Paul Guinan.**

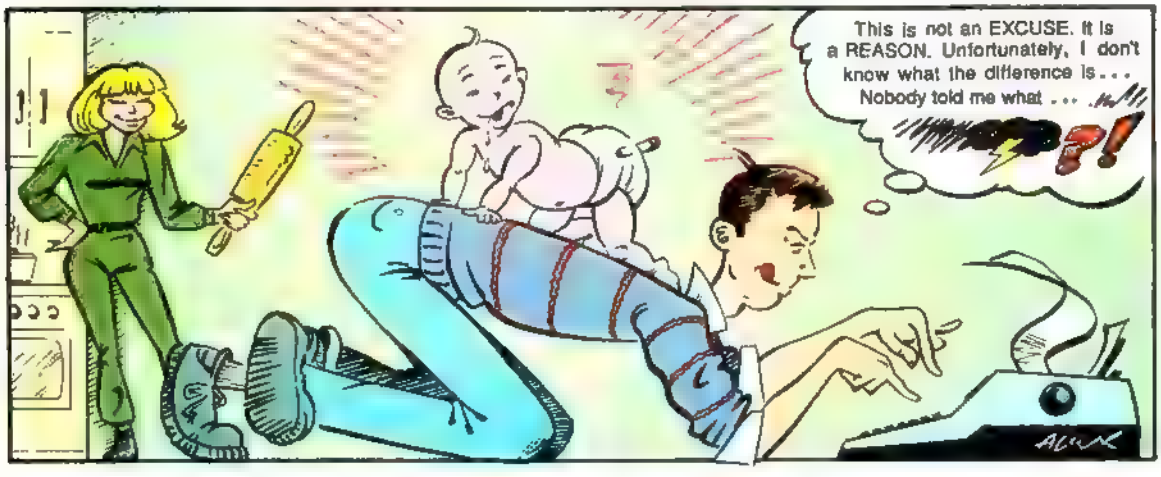
Evangeline #1: The premiere issue in the First and definitive version of one of the most sought-after comics of the '80s. **Judith Hunt** and **Charles Dixon** bring their brilliant creative efforts to First Comics for the all-new, deluxe adventures of **Evangeline.**

Grimjack #34: What can Gaunt do when Spook's lust for revenge on her murderer is stronger than even the memory of love? By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake.** Special full-length issue.

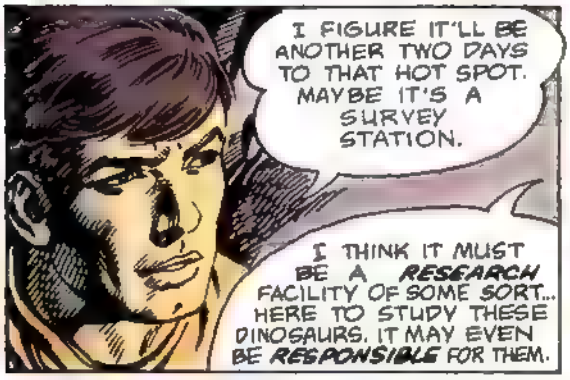
Hawkmoon: *The Mad God's Amulet* #3: Dorian Hawkmoon's betrothed has been kidnapped, and Hawkmoon discovers that the Mad God has powers beyond what any suspect. By **Gerry Conway, Rafael Kayanan** and **Rico Rival.** Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Jon Sable, Freelance #47: Jon's been hired to prevent a murder. But first he has to get past a police S.W.A.T. team and a group of trigger-happy terrorists. By **Mike Grell** and **Mike Manley.** Deluxe series.

Nexus #32: Special guest artist **Jackson Guice** joins **Mike Baron** and **John Nyberg** as Nexus goes to Procyon to visit his daughters -- and nothing, *nothing*, will stand in his way! Plus Tales of Judah. Deluxe series.



NOT A BAD COOK EITHER. THIS TASTES BETTER THAN CHICKEN.
THANKS, JONNY.


I FIGURE IT'LL BE ANOTHER TWO DAYS TO THAT HOT SPOT. MAYBE IT'S A SURVEY STATION.
I THINK IT MUST BE A RESEARCH FACILITY OF SOME SORT... HERE TO STUDY THESE DINOSAURS. IT MAY EVEN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

THIS ISN'T A CASE OF PARALLEL EVOLUTION.
THE CREATURES ARE FROM ALL DIFFERENT ERAS... AND THE PLANT LIFE'S ALL WRONG FOR ANY DINOSAUR ERA.

IT'S MORE LIKE A GIANT MUSEUM.

YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ON THE SUBJECT.
I TOLD YOU... I READ A LOT. (YAWN) I'M FOR BED.

YEAH. . ME TOO..
...I GUESS.

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WE HAVE TO CONSERVE WARMTH, Y'KNOW. NOTHING PERSONAL.
HM.. ALL RIGHT.
LATER...
WOK!
OW!
NEVER.
EVER.
NEXT MORNING.
JONNY?
BOOM!
JONNY!
DOWN HERE, COUNTESS!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
JUST DOING A LITTLE FISHING.
WITH WHAT?

GRENADES... COOKS 'EM A LITTLE, BUT IT'S EASY
IT'S WASTEFUL TOO, AND YOU...
JONNY! BEHIND YOU!
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
OH, CRAP!

THE GRENADE!
WHAM!
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE!
BIG ANIMALS THE SIZE OF HOUSES. LITTLE ANIMALS THAT EAT THE BIG ANIMALS! IT'S COLD AT NIGHT! IT'S HOT ALL DAY! THERE ARE BUGS EVERYWHERE!
I LIKE SPACE. SPACE IS CLEAN. I LIKE SPACE A LOT.
MUCH LATER...
I'M GETTING READINGS ALL OVER THE SPECTRUM. WHATEVER WE'RE HEADING FOR SHOULD BE IN SIGHT SOON.
WHAT'S THAT UP THERE?

A MAN?
WE MUST BE CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT.
HEY... UH... DON'T SHOOT OR ANYTHING!
YOU GUYS GOT ANY WATER ON YOU?
U.S. FOOD? DON'T TELL ME THERE'S A SUPERMARKET AROUND HERE?
JONNY, PAT HIM DOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
I'M FROM THE RESEARCH FACILITY. I TOOK OFF WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED.
SHOOTING?!!
SOME OFF-PLANET GUYS CRASHED A LIFEBOAT NEARBY. OUR HEAD TECH TOLD THEM CENTRAL SUPPLY WOULDN'T BE BACK FOR THREE MONTHS, SO THEY'D HAVE TO STAY PUT.
THAT'S WHEN THEIR LEADER GOT VIOLENT.
SOUNDS LIKE OUR FRIEND, FRYE.
THAT WAS HIS NAME... FRYE UH... HE'S NOT REALLY YOUR FRIEND, RIGHT?
HE'S NOT ANYONE'S FRIEND.

SO YOU GUYS ARE HEADED FOR THE UNIT? MIND IF I TAG ALONG? THE NAME'S BERNIE... BERNIE MILLER.
I'M JONNY... SHE'S THE COUNTESS.
A REAL COUNTESS?
NO... I'M NOT A COUNTESS. I'M A NUN.
IF I'D KNOWN NUNS WERE LIKE THAT, I'D CONVERT TOMORROW.
HEY! WATCH IT PAL! SHE'S CELIBATE!
SO WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
NOTHING!
TOWARD EVENING...
LOOKS PEACEFUL FROM HERE.
LET'S WAIT 'TIL NIGHTFALL AND THEN I'LL GET US PAST THE SENSORS...

SMELLS LIKE A SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN HERE.
CORRECTION-- IT IS A SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN HERE.
. . THEY... MUST'VE KILLED THEM ALL.
...ALL OF THEM... I... GACK...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE SICK, DON'T BE LONG. WHAT NOW, SISTER?
WE FIND HIM, AND WE KILL HIM.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
HOLD IT, YOU TWO!
FRYE!
CHE LAB
THE CONTESSA... YOU KNOW, YOU'RE A PERSISTENT PAIN IN THE ASS.

MAYBE WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN AFTER ALL...BEFORE WE HAVE TO KILL YOU.
LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU BASTARD!
WHAP!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
KEEP WALKING, LADY
GRRIC!
YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE--IN THERE, OR BE NICE AND YOU AND THE HERO GO IN AN EMPTY CHAMBER.

WHY DON'T YOU FRESHEN UP.. BE BACK SOON... CONTESSA
JONNY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN HIT A LOT WORSE
DID THEY GET ALL OF YOUR WEAPONS?
NOPE. STILLETTOS ARE STILL IN MY BOOTS.
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO WITH US?
NOTHING PLEASANT
KRRK KRRK
HEAR THAT?
YEAH.
IT'S THE DOOR
KRAK!

IT'S BERNIE!
HOW'D YOU DO THE DOOR?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'M A WIZARD WITH CRYOGENICS.

WHAT ABOUT FRYE AND HIS BUDDIES?
OH..
I GAVE THEM THE COLD SHOULDER.

HA! SCUMSICLES!

CUT IT OUT, JONNY. FRYE'S STILL AROUND, AND OUR "WIZARD" FROZE THE GUNS, TOO.

AH, SIS, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

VIIP! VIIP! VIIP!
CHUNK! CHONK!
I HAVE HAD IT WITH YOU, LADY!
BERNIE...SLIDE ME THE CRYO UNIT.
S-SURE.
VIIP! VIIP!
TWO STILLETTOS AND AN ICE CREAM MACHINE... WE'RE DANGEROUS AS HELL.
VIIP! VIIP! VIIP! VIIP!
NOW WHO'S WORRIED?

COME OUT SLUT! OR I'M COMIN' IN!
VIIP!
VIIP!
CHONK!
CHONK!
CHONK!
NOW, JONNY!
WHOOOSH!
UF!
SON-OF-A-BITCH!
YOU MISSED!
NO, I DIDN'T.
YOU BASTARDS! I'M GO... HUH?
KRRK!
KRRK!

GRRRRRK!
OH GOD...
KRRSSSSH!
STAY BACK, YOU BASTARDS!
BRRRRRT
BRRRRRRRT!
I SAID STAY... NO!!!!
KLIK!
KLIK!
KLIK!
NO! AAAAAAAAAHHH
GET BACK!! GET...

NO MAN DESERVES TO DIE LIKE THAT.
HE DID.
WHAT ABOUT THE CRITTERS, SIS?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM NOW.
GRAAAK
NICE WORK.
IT HAD BETTER BE. I USED UP EVERYTHING IN THE TANK.
WE CAN CLEAN UP LATER. LET'S GO SEE ABOUT THE RADIO.
TWO WEEKS LATER...
HA! YOU LANDED ON PARK PLACE. THAT'S $550 YOU OWE ME. BY THE TIME YOUR SHIP GETS HERE, YOU'LL OWE A MILLION.
YEAH... GREAT.

NEXT: The Origin of Evangeline